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Church Says Colby Is Lifting Secrecy for C.I.A. Inqui

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 27—Senator Frank Church said today that he had received assurances that C.I.A. employes testifying before the Senate's Select Committee on Inelligence Activities would not be bound by the signed secrecy pledge that the agency requires as a condition of employment.

The Central Intelligence Agency's decision to waive the so-called "contract agreement" was made known to Senator Church in a meeting today with William E. Colby, the director of Central Intelligence. It represents the most important advance thus far of the panel's ability to gather sensitive information on possible misdeeds by the agency.

Mr. Church, an Idaho Democrat who is chairman of the select committee, told reporters following the 40-minute meeting that he had been assured that the C.I.A. would "cooperate fully" in what Mr. Colby had termed a "necessary and constructive" inquiry by the Senate.

The contract waiver will apply to all current and former employes of the C.I.A., the Senator said.

Mr. Church added that Mr. Colby had not left the impression with him that the C.I.A. considered information about any of its activities to be too sensitive to be disclosed to the committee, under the proper safeguards.

United Press International

Senator Frank Church addressing the National Press Club yesterday.

Senator Church, asserting that the investigation was not "going to be a manhunt," pointed out that "neither the C.I.A. nor this committee" could deprive potential witnesses of their constitutional right against self-incrimination if they chose not to testify.

The Senator has previously gone on record, however, as favoring the judicious use of limited Congressional immunity that would protect witnesses from prosecution on the basis of incriminating disclosures contained in their testimony.

"We're as mindful as he is of legitimate security," Senator Church said of Mr. Colby. "I think, knowing that, he'll be very cooperative."

He added, however, that Mr. Colby had turned aside his request for a copy of a C.I.A. report, sent to President Ford last month, that outlines domestic surveillance activities by the agency, including the wiretapping of American citizens.

Mr. Colby told him, the Senator said, that his request for the report should properly be directed to the White House.

Although the C.I.A.'s legislative charter specifically forbids its participation in internal police or security matters, a C.I.A. spokesman said Mr. Colby had concluded that no criminal charges would be brought by the Justice Department against any of the agency's operatives involved in prohibited domestic activities.

Wide Range of Inquiry

Like its counterpart in the House, however, the Senate's investigation into intelligence-gathering by Federal agencies is likely to range far beyand the activities, foreign or domestic, of the C.I.A.

In a recent interview, Senator Church said that, although the committee would go "where the evidence leads us," he hoped that a considerable portion of the investigation could be devoted to examining the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Although Mr. Church expressed an interest in learning more about covert C.I.A. activity abroad, he emphasized that the primary thrust of the hearings would probably [illegible] "possible misdeeds relating [illegible] the American people."

"My overriding concern," said, "is the growth of [illegible] Brother government in [illegible] country, and the implicit threat that this represents to the freedom of the people."

The Senator also expressed the hope that, as a time-saving device, his committee would be able to enter into some degree of informal cooperation with the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. Church said that he had discussed the advisability of such cooperation with Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, who heads the House panel, and that Mr. Nedzi had promised to "look into it and discuss it with the members of his committee."

One member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, told newsmen at a breakfast gathering today that he hoped the investigation would answer "the question of how the C.I.A. interfered with the Presidency" during the Watergate scandals.

Mr. Baker, who as the Republican vice chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee conducted an independent inquiry into the C.I.A.'s role in the Watergate affair, said that he hoped the 10,000 pages of evidence he had compiled, and which the C.I.A. has declined to let him release, would prove an impwortant resource for the committee.

Mr. Baker added his hope that former President Richard M. Nixon "would come [illegible] voluntarily" to testify [illegible] the intelligence panel. "I [illegible] convinced," he said, "[illegible] investigation [illegible] out the [illegible]